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**DIRECTOR OFFICE
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In re Application of:
Tomohiro Kawata et al.
Application No.: 08/931,615
Filed: September 16, 1997
For: SPEAKER UNIT

DECISION GRANTING PETITION
TO RESET PERIOD FOR REPLY


This is a decision on the petition filed on January 28, 2002, requesting that the shortened statutory period for reply set forth in the Office communication mailed November 27, 2001 and to request oral hearing be reset to run from the date on which the Office communication was actually received at the correspondence address of record.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner provided a statement that the Office communication in question was received at the correspondence address of record on January 15, 2002. The petition was filed within two weeks of receipt of the Office communication. A substantial portion of the set reply period had elapsed on the date of receipt. Furthermore, the Office communication was mailed between October 13, 2001 and January 2, 2002, when delivery of mail from the Office to certain regions of the country was delayed.

Accordingly, the shortened statutory period that was originally set forth in the Office communication originally mailed on November 27, 2001 is hereby reset to run FROM THE ACTUAL RECEIPT DATE OF THE OFFICE communication, January 15, 2002. A two-month period for reply and to request an oral hearing run from the actual date of the receipt of the Examiner Answer, January 15, 2002. Applicants are referred to MPEP section 1209 and CFR 1.17 (d) for proper fees required to request oral hearing.

The application will then be forwarded to Board of Patent Appeals and Conferences for further action.


James L. Dwyer, Director
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Communications